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Chicago BEAR REPORT

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED
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CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

Vol. 18 No. 10 August 7, 1993

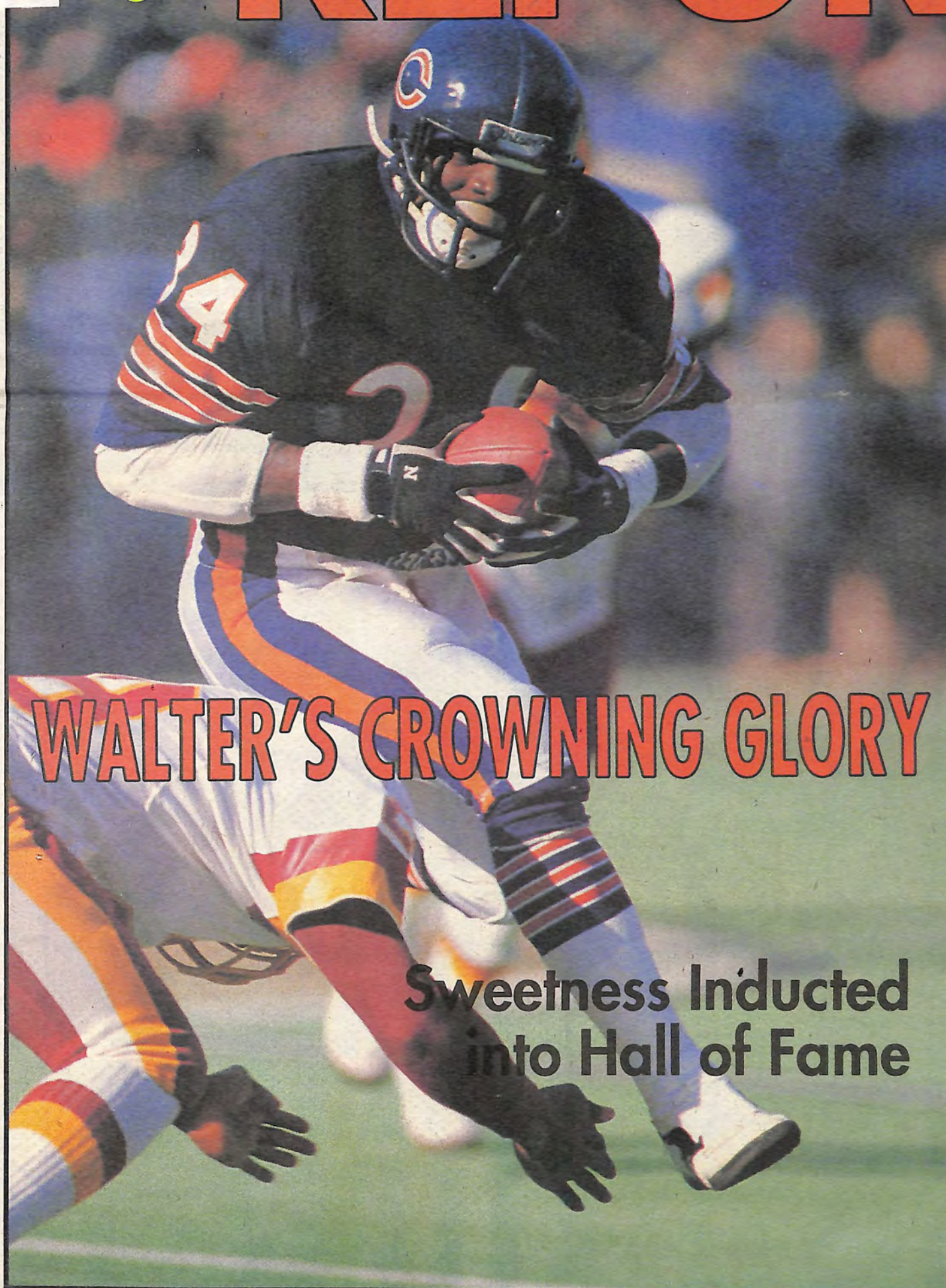
FIRE IN HIS EYES

*Spellman
Zeroes In
On Landing
Starting Job*

Meet Tom Waddle
in Home Games

Transcript
of Payton
Speech

Color Poster of
QB Jim Harbaugh



WALTER'S CROWNING GLORY

Sweetness Inducted
into Hall of Fame



Cooling down

Bear defenders Jeremy Lincoln (left) and Richard Dent sit in cans filled with ice following last week's intrasquad scrimmage. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)



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DRAW PLAY



Chicago BEAR REPORT

Vol. 18 No. 10 August 7, 1993

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PAYTON'S CROWNING GLORY

"Nobody does it better. Makes me feel sad for the rest. Nobody does it half as good as you. Baby you're the best."

The above words were penned for the theme song of a James Bond movie. But when "The NFL Today" set the music and lyrics to video highlights of Bears superstar Walter Payton, it was magic. That's because Payton was music, as smooth as a saxophone and as heart-pounding as a drum solo.

He was never the fastest or biggest back in the league, but his sheer will to succeed could move mountains. He came, he saw, he high-stepped. He ran over, through and around defenders. He initiated most of the violent collisions, then helped befuddled opponents to their feet with a pat on the behind. He was respected by fans, teammates and even Green Bay Packers fans.

Payton arrived as an unheralded rookie out of tiny Jackson State in 1975 and transcended professional football. He joined a team that boasted a history of great running backs such as Bronko Nagurski, Red Grange and Gale Sayers. After 13 seasons, Payton emerged as the greatest of all time.

He is the National Football League's all-time leading rusher with 16,726 yards. He holds seven other league records, including most yards in a game (275 versus the Vikings in 10-7 in 1977), most rushing touchdowns (110), and most 1,000-yard seasons (10). He holds 26 Chicago Bears records and his Number 34 jersey is retired. In 13 years, Payton missed just one game because of injury. One game.

He won a Super Bowl, was voted to nine Pro Bowls, and is generally considered the greatest all-around player in NFL

LARRY MAYER



history. On Saturday, he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in ceremonies in Canton, Ohio. Payton, of course, was voted in on the first ballot.

"I don't think anybody had the same burning desire," said former Bears fullback Matt Suhey, a backfield mate of Payton's from 1980-87. "He was a great competitor. He had the desire to do well, whether it was blocking, receiving or running. His ability to play under any conditions was the most remarkable thing about him."

"Walter Payton was a football player," added former Bears tackle Jimbo Covert. "He's not only the greatest running back who ever played, he's the greatest football player who ever played. He could do it all. He was a complete player and he was a pleasure to play with."

Payton entered the league with modest expectations. And who could blame him? The Bears were an awful football team in the early '70s. In the six seasons before he arrived, the Bears had gone 1-13, 6-8, 6-8, 4-9-1, 3-11 and 4-10.

"I just wanted to have a great deal of fun and provide a decent living for my family. That was it," Payton said. "Those were my major goals. Anything else that came along was extra."



The NFL's all-time leading rusher, Walter Payton is generally considered the game's greatest all-around player. (Bear Report file photo)

Ultimately there would be an excess of "extras". Payton rushed for 1,390 yards and 13 TDs in his second year, then followed that up by almost single-handedly carrying the Bears into the playoffs in 1977 by rushing for a career-high 1,852 yards and 14 TDs. Payton was a superstar by his third season, but the team regressed in 1978 before returning to the playoffs in '79. Then, the Bears sputtered to three straight losing seasons under coach Neill Armstrong.

"I was just trying to stay alive. That's what motivated me," Payton said of his early days in the league. "Coming from a small school, people were scratching their heads wondering whether or not I was going to make the grade. People don't think the caliber of football is the same at a small school as it is in the Big 10 or Pac 10. But that's not true. We all know that."

The Hall of Fame induction is another "extra". Predictably, Payton did it in his own unique style. His 12-year-old son Jarrett became the first child to act as official presenter in Hall of Fame history. Though Jarrett is too young to remember his father in his football prime, there are plenty of people around to tell him what it was all about.

"Walter loved to play the game," said

former Bears receiver Dennis McKinnon. "I think he carried the league when the league was suffering for a long time. He's finally getting his just desserts by being inducted into the Hall of Fame."

On and off the field, Payton was perpetual motion during his playing career. That's one thing that hasn't changed. His company manages 21 restaurants worldwide, including locations in Australia, Honolulu and Japan. He also continues to pursue a career in automobile racing and is one of the investors in a group that hopes to bring an expansion football team to St. Louis.

Through it all, Payton hasn't changed. He remains smooth as a saxophone and as heart-pounding as a drum solo.

"There were few guys who could gear up every play of every game of every season for 13 years," said former Broncos linebacker Tom Jackson, now an ESPN commentator. "When you're playing against a guy like that, that's what you learn to respect. It's easy to be average all the time. But for a guy to be great all the time, then you've got something special."

"There aren't enough accolades for the man," McKinnon added. "And as a role model, you can't find one better than Walter Payton."

Bears in the Hall of Fame

Name	Position	Years with Bears	Inducted
Doug Atkins	DE	1955-66	1982
George Blanda	QB	1949-58	1981
Dick Butkus	LB	1965-73	1979
George Connor	LB	1948-55	1975
Mike Ditka	TE	1961-66	1988
Paddy Driscoll	RB	1920; 26-29	1965
Danny Fortmann	G	1936-43	1965
Bill George	LB	1952-65	1974
Red Grange	RB/DB	1925; 29-34	1963
George Halas	Owner	1920-83	1963
Ed Healey	T	1922-27	1964
Bill Hewitt	End	1932-36	1971
Stan Jones	T	1954-65	1991
Sid Luckman	QB	1939-50	1965
Link Lyman	T	1926-34	1964
George McAfee	RB/DB	1940-50	1966
George Musso	OT/DT	1933-44	1982
Bronko Nagurski	FB/DT	1930-37; 43	1963
Walter Payton	RB	1975-87	1993
Gale Sayers	RB	1965-71	1977
Joe Stydahar	T	1936-46	1967
George Trafton	C	1920-32	1964
Bulldog Turner	C/LB	1940-52	1966



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The 1993 Hall of Fame class included (from left) former Chargers quarterback Dan Fouts, former Dolphins offensive lineman Larry Little, former

Steelers coach Chuck Noll, Walter Payton, and former 49ers coach Bill Walsh. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

Emotional Payton surprises himself

CANTON, Ohio—By 8 a.m. Saturday morning at pro football's Hall of Fame festivities, Walter Payton was beginning to get the idea. He was in a parade in front of 200,000 people and on the hillside near the Hall, fans were chanting "Walter, Walter, Walter."

They had stayed all night to get a good view and it was still three hours before the induction ceremony. Payton had come to Canton late and without a whole lot of enthusiasm. He had blamed the media for ruining his election by overplaying it. He said the foregone conclusion of this day was like telling a kid what he got for Christmas and then expecting him to act surprised.

But Payton surprised himself.

Instead of running away from his feelings, the NFL's all-time leading rusher smacked head-on into the middle of a whole lineup of memories. After bouncing off several potential stumbling blocks, he scored, as usual, drawing huge cheers from a crowd gathered at the steps of the Hall including Virginia McCaskey, owner of the Bears. Payton is the 23d Bear. No other team has so many Hall of Famers.

Payton followed Dan Fouts, Larry Little, and Chuck Noll, and preceded Bill Walsh. None of them drew as warm a response as Jarrett Payton, 12, Walter's son and presenter who brought the fans to their feet just by appearing at the podium as the youngest presenter ever. He immediately and frantically waved them down, pleading: "I'm trying to get this thing over with."

In a two-minute speech, briefest and most welcome of the day, Jarrett emphasized the father he knows rather than the player he hardly remembers.

"My dad played 13 years, only missing one game, and breaking all running back

DON PIERSON



records," Jarrett said. "Not only is my dad an exceptional athlete, he's a role model. He's my biggest role model and best friend. We do a lot of things together—playing basketball, golf, going to movies to name a few. I'm sure my sister will endorse this statement: we have a super dad."

Jarrett also called his dad a "philanthropist," perhaps remembering the quick handoff Walter made to Jarrett on Friday of a royalty check for the weekend's commemorative Hall of Fame sweatshirts.

Payton, wearing sunglasses to hide more than protect his eyes from the brilliant sunshine, acknowledged the chants. He had made friendly wagers that he would not cry, including one for the right to wear the Super Bowl rings of Little and NFL Players Association executive director Gene Upshaw for a year.

Payton had been confronted by Hall of Famer Ray Nitschke and criticized by fellow Bears' legend Gale Sayers for displaying a blasé attitude in the months leading up to his induction.

"I was the first one to say how strong I was," Payton said. "As it goes to show, when you're amongst your peers such as these great athletes, you try to be some-

thing you're not. After hearing my son get up here and talk, I don't care if I lose the bet."

Payton's voice cracked. He didn't break down, but neither did anybody else.

Payton paid tribute to his high school and college coaches, and to all teammates. He thanked older brother Eddie and sister Pamela for chasing him around his Columbia, Miss., house with a broom and dishrag. "That's the reason I had the moves I did," he said.

He honored his mother, Alyne, "who instilled what you see here today—some of it good and everything bad I earned it on my own."

Payton paid tribute to former Bears' general manager Jim Finks, who was supposed to be his presenter but is battling lung cancer. Walsh also praised his friend, Finks, calling him a "master" and predicting his eventual election to the Hall.

Saving his most heartfelt thoughts for last, Payton turned to Jarrett, daughter Brittney, 8, and wife Connie. He had said that getting to the Hall of Fame "doesn't belong to me alone but to everyone I played with and every coach." But the family brought it all home to an intensely personal level that few inductees can escape.

"The thing I'm most proud of and the thing I'm most ashamed of, they coincide with each other," Payton said. "You saw my son up here and believe me, I had a lump in my throat so big, it was unbelievable. I also have a little daughter and I think about her, also."

"Their mom was with me those 13 years and believe me, they were not good because I was not the easiest person to get along with. Because of my wanting to give so much to other people, you tend to neglect the people you truly love the most."

"I want to stand up and say at this point in my life—Jarrett, Brittney, and your mom, you guys will never have to worry about anything in your life no matter what the situation or how it ends, because just as running up that hill and trying to catch runners such as Jim Brown and Gale Sayers motivated me to do all I possibly could do, you three will motivate me to make sure your lives are happy and fulfilled."

Payton, who claimed he had no idea what Jarrett's speech might include, said "everyone" is a role model. He contrasted Michael Jordan and Pete Rose as role models, saying he drew from Rose "because he hustled every play. Just because he had one mistake in his life, am I supposed to throw back everything I gained from him? You can't do that. I'm talking to the kids. Everybody you meet you can learn something from."

Earlier, Payton admitted Canton's extravagant parade was "awesome. It really was. Little almost broke down and started crying. You know what's going to happen when he gets to the podium. We have a little wager going and he's going to lose."

Payton also provided insight into his legendary pranks that made him a locker room terror.

"I was remembering when our center, Dan Neal, was laying on a training table," Payton said. "We had just come out with electro-therapy. He was all wired up and I turned the juice as high as it could go. All his muscles were contracting."

Something about Payton always was electrifying.

Don Pierson covers the Bears and the NFL for the Chicago Tribune.

In Walter's words...

The following is a complete transcript of Walter Payton's remarks at his Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Walter followed his 12-year-old son Jarrett, who acted as his official presenter.

"When I first got here we made a wager about who would be the first one to break down in tears. I was the first one who said that I wouldn't and I was the first one to say how strong I was and everything else. But it goes to show that a lot of times when you're amongst your peers, such as these great athletes over here, you try to be something that you're not. And after hearing my son get up here and talk, I don't care if I lose the bet.

"When you first get up here, the first thing you do is you think about the people who put you here. As the previous inductees and I'm sure coach Walsh will say, we're not standing up here because of our own merit or because of something we've done by ourselves. Football is a team game, and it takes everyone on that team to make a product such as these Hall of Famers who are sitting under this tent and the ones who are being inducted today.

"And they'll be the first ones to say that when they stood up here and they accepted being inducted here they did it with a great deal of embarrassment because you were pointing all of the accolades toward them. They realized in their hearts that there were teammates who threw blocks, who caught passes and talked to them when they were down. There were high school coaches, such as Charles Boston, who took me under his wing and helped me and taught me the fundamentals of football. Then when I went to college there was Robert Hill, who took me there and showed me what hard work and determination would do if you put forth the effort and you take a little time.

"They would stand up here and tell you that everything they had on paper and everything they had in their hearts did not come from them solely alone. It came from a number of people who've helped them and they've met along the way, such as I. Every guy, every offensive lineman who played for the Chicago Bears helped me get that 16,000 yards, and I thank them.

"When you stand up here and give your acceptance speech there's some humorous things that come to mind. One of them is my sister and my brother. When I was growing up I was the baby. And when they had to clean the house on Saturdays when my mom went to work, being the baby I didn't have to do that. These guys beat me up. That's the reason I had the moves that I did. Because when you have an angry sister and an angry brother chasing you with a broom and a wet dishrag, you tend to pick up moves that you never had before.

"I want to thank them for being a part of my life and helping me to be here. Also, there are a lot of people I could name, but I won't do that because when you do that you leave out people you are close to. If I named all the people that have been influential in my life I would be up here beyond the eight minutes. Probably eight days.

"But there's somebody special, my mom, because she was the one, who along with my father—who passed away in 1978—that instilled in me what you see here today, some of it good, and everything bad I earned that on my own. But I want to thank her for not giving up on me and for keeping me close to her and for giving me that extra push that a son needed who was very curious about life. In other words, she was the one who taught me the basics of what true values were all about.

"There was a guy who was supposed to be here today that was going to co-introduce me, Mr. Jim Finks, who is having a bout with lung cancer. I want to let him know that our prayers are with him. He was the guy who gave me my start. He was the one who called me when I was at Jackson State University the day before the draft. He asked me a question. He said, 'Walter, this is Jim Finks, how would you like to play for the Chicago Bears?'

"My answer to him was, 'Jim, I'll play for anybody,' and that's the way I felt at that particular time. Had I answered that question any different I probably would have been playing for somebody else, maybe even Pittsburgh.

"Blessings come and blessings go. But the thing that I'm most proud of, and the thing that I'm most ashamed of, they coincide with each other. You saw my son up here a few minutes ago, and believe me I had a lump in my throat that was so big it's unbelievable. I also have a little daughter, Brittany Payton, and I think about her also. Because their mom was with me for those 13 years that I played, and believe me they were not good. I was not the easiest person to get along with.

"And because of my wanting to give to so many other people, sometimes you tend to neglect the people that you truly love the most. I want to stand up here and say that Jarrett, Brittany and your mom, you guys will never have to worry about anything in your life, no matter what the situation or how it ends. Because just as running up that hill and trying to catch runners such as Jim Brown and Gale Sayers motivated me to more than I thought I possibly could do, you three will motivate me to make sure that your lives are happy and fulfilled.

"I'm going to close by saying life is short, it's oh so sweet, there are a lot of people we meet as we walk through these shallow halls, but the things that mean the most are the friendships that you make and take along with you. I'm happy to say that everyone that I've met in my life, I've gained something from them, be it negative or positive, it has reinforced my life in some aspect.

"When you speak of role models when we talk to our kids, everybody is a role model. Everyone. Just as you look at a Michael Jordan. Or a Pete Rose, who then falls on hard times. But I got something from the way he played the game, because he hustled every play. And just because he had one mistake in his life, am I supposed to throw back everything that I've gained from him? You can't do that.

"And I'm talking to the kids. Everybody you meet you can learn something from them. Everybody you meet in your life can influence your life. Just as these people here have, just as you have, because the fans are what make this game. Without you being out here and coming to this, it wouldn't be professional football. So I stand here and I applaud you for supporting and staying with the National Football League and these players here. Thank you."



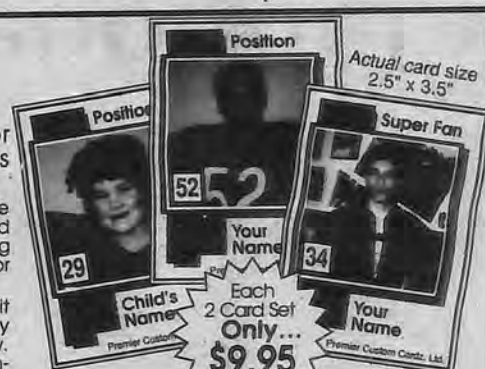
Walter Payton embraces son Jarrett after getting inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame Saturday in Canton. Jarrett was the first son to act as official presenter. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

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An inspiration to all

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

Though Walter Payton was a huge individual superstar, he remained a consummate team player. He took as much pride in knocking a linebacker on his fanny while blocking as he did in scoring a touchdown. It was an example that motivated teammates to go an extra yard for both Walter and themselves.

"He inspired me," said former Bears receiver Dennis McKinnon, who made the team as an undrafted free agent and even-

tually started in the Super Bowl. "He showed me that you can realize your dreams and aspirations with a little hard work, dedication, a lot of faith, and a little bit of luck. Through it all, he persevered, and that rubs off on you."

Payton's mere presence pushed the Bears to greater heights.

"I lined up right next to him in the huddle," said former Bears tackle Jimbo Covert, "and I could feel his energy at all times. And it was a good feeling."

"He had this aura around him," McKinnon added. "Everyone had admira-

tion and respect for him."

As intense as he was on the field, Payton never took anything too seriously. He was the ultimate prankster, setting off explosive devices in team dormitories, startling complete strangers by rocking elevator cars back and forth, and emitting blood-curdling screams for no reason other than to liven up an early-morning team meeting.

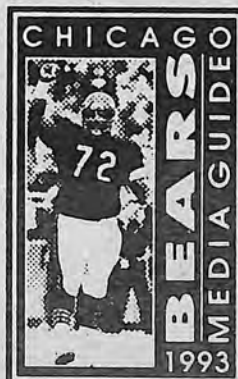
"All of the rookies dress in the basement lockerroom at Halas Hall," Covert said. "We call it 'The dungeon.' During my rookie year we were all taking a nap



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Payton often sent teammates head over heels with off-the-wall pranks. (Bear Report file photo)

down there between practices when Walter threw an M-80 down the steps and into the lockerroom. You've never seen 30 guys running around like that having heart attacks."

McKinnon was not immune to Walter's pranks.

"He was the only player who had a Winnebago at training camp and the only one who didn't have a curfew," McKinnon said. "At about 11:30 Walter would sneak into the dorm where we were staying and put cherry bombs outside everybody's doors."

"He was the ultimate prankster. He'd slap you with a towel when you'd get out of the shower, he'd pull your pants down in practice, and he'd pick you up in the air and try to crack your back. Regardless of how serious the situation was, he'd always find a way with laughter."

Suhey says he can't reveal Walter's most outrageous pranks during their days together on the Bears. But just because their playing careers are over, Walter is still Walter.

"Sometimes he calls my wife pretending he's a girl," Suhey said with a laugh.

Payton's playful personality remains intact. And it always will.

"I'm the way I am from conception," Payton said. "I haven't changed from that. I have fun, and I do things people don't think I should do. They don't think I should wash my car, go to the grocery store, or snow plow my driveway. They think all those things are below me."

"But the way I grew up, that's just part of me."

Vocal Spellman ready to emerge

Williams, Baker join starting unit

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

PLATTEVILLE, Wis.—Alonzo Spellman's vow of silence lasted only one year. The hulking defensive end has been chattering up a storm during training camp drills, at once encouraging himself and his teammates while at the same time intimidating those on the other side of the line of scrimmage.

"Ka-boom!" Spellman shrieks as he tags quarterback Jim Harbaugh during a passing drill, for what surely would have been a sack in a full-contact scrimmage. "That's a knockout!"

At 6-foot-4, 282 pounds and 4.5 percent body fat, Spellman was viewed as a knockout as soon as he joined the Bears as a first-round draft pick last season. But now the team's most physically imposing player on paper has also been the most impressive on the football field throughout the first three weeks of training camp.

Spellman has routinely toppled offensive linemen like cheap folding chairs. He's parlayed confidence and familiarity into intensity and determination and hopes it will ultimately land him in the starting lineup.

"Last year I wasn't that confident in what I could do because the system was new to me. It was hard to break through because everybody was set in their ways," said Spellman, who recorded 30 tackles and four sacks in a limited role as a rookie last season. "But this year the coaches have a real positive attitude and I feel real good about myself. I feel confident. That's why it's so much easier and I'm fired up."

As Richard Dent held out while bickering with Bears management over his contract, Spellman's confidence blossomed as he lined up at right end in off-season workouts. Dent's holdout could cost him money if Spellman continues to improve. The 21-year-old budding superstar is zeroing in on the starting spot and should excel in the Bears' new defensive scheme that stresses speed and quickness.

With Mike Singletary retired, the defense is in quest of an emotional leader. Spellman isn't ready to claim that role just

yet, but if you watch how his teammates rally around him in the huddle at training camp, it seems he's the ideal man for the job.

"I don't want to say that I'm a leader. I don't want to put myself in that position at all," Spellman said. "If the team feels I'm playing well enough to call me a leader, I'd gladly step up and fill that position. But I'm not setting out to be the leader or anything."

"He is really trying to be a leader," says coach Dave Wannstedt. "I think the leadership will come in conjunction with performance."

Spellman already leads the team in decibel level, something he refined as a star at Ohio State. "I was very vocal in college because I was confident and relaxed with the system," he said. "Talking like that keeps my head in the game. Some people can talk themselves out of a game, but when I'm talking and I'm screaming and I'm fired up, it keeps me focused."

Spellman's intensity has manifested itself in several ways this summer. His aggressive nature has led to a pair of training camp brawls with offensive linemen Jay Leeuwenburg and Troy Auzenne. If Spellman can only channel that intensity into the proper channels, he'll emerge as an impact player for the 1993 Chicago Bears.

"Coach Wannstedt just knows how to put you at ease," Spellman said. "He knows how to bring the player out of you. He's definitely done that for me."



NEW LOOK: A year ago at this time James "Big Cat" Williams was battling for a roster spot at defensive tackle. Last week, the 6-foot-7, 295-pounder was temporarily anointed a starter at right tackle—on the offensive line. Williams made the switch last season when it was deemed his size and strength would be better suited on the other side of the ball.

With veteran tackle Keith Van Horne still unsigned, Williams leap-frogged over

Stan Thomas, who has been unimpressive in the opening weeks of training camp. After being demoted, Thomas had his best practice of the camp.

"I think James deserved that opportunity," Wannstedt said. "He's been making progress. Physically, James has the tools. There's no question about that. He's giving the effort. It's just that a lot of things that happen to him he's seeing for the first time."

"He's behind from a fundamental standpoint, but I like his size, his strength and his attitude."

Though Williams continues to work with the first team, by no means has he—or anyone else for that matter—cemented a starting position.

"We're shuffling guys around," Wannstedt said. "I told the players last night not to be concerned about the lineup until we get ready for the Giants game."

Williams still possesses the mentality of a defensive player, something that offensive line coach Tony Wise considers an asset. Williams also has quick feet and ideal pro dimensions. All those involved, however, understand that the learning process will be gradual. It will take time before Williams is able to react without thinking about what he's being asked to do. It's like driving a car—it takes a series of lessons before it becomes natural or routine.

"James is very physical on contact," Wise said. "He gives very good effort for a guy who's new to that position and he shows some signs of understanding. He's got good football sense, and he's a powerful man when he hits somebody—and he enjoys hitting people."

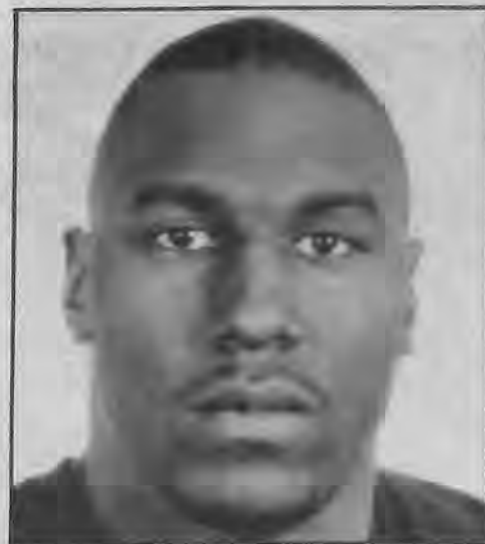
Thomas has failed to live up to expectations since being selected in the first round of the 1991 draft. He bickered with Mike Ditka and was thought to be a player who'd excel under the new coaching regime. Though it's early, that has yet to happen. He has not looked sharp in drills and continues to jump offside on occasion.

"He's just got to progress faster and more steadily in order for us to win," Wise said.

Thomas' off-the-field problems haven't subsided either. The victim of a drive-by shooting after a traffic altercation before last season, Thomas was charged with drunken driving after police allegedly saw him run a red light in Schaumburg, Ill. last month.



BAKER'S DOZEN: By no means has Dante Jones sewn up the starting middle



Alonzo Spellman

linebacker position. That was message delivered last week when Wannstedt moved rookie fourth-round draft pick Myron Baker into the spot. Jones played well during Saturday's scrimmage but hasn't done enough to convince Wannstedt that the job equivocally belongs to him.

"Dante played well in the scrimmage. We just want to take a look at Myron in there," Wannstedt said.

Baker played in an identical defensive scheme at Louisiana Tech. He was predominantly an outside linebacker there but did play the middle position during his junior season.

"It's nothing new to me, and it's the exact same scheme," Baker said. "I feel to be a good linebacker you've got to learn to play at least two different positions."

Baker stands 6-foot-1 and weighs only 228 pounds. He believes his quickness will compensate for his obvious lack of size in a position long-patrolled by the retired Singletary.

"I think I can handle it with my strength and speed," he said. "Quickness is important here because this is an attacking-type of defense. You've got to hit everything running. If you're playing the run, you've got to go get it right now. You can't sit back and wait on things and take on blocks. You've got to go to the ball."

Baker recorded over 100 tackles in each of his final three collegiate seasons. During his senior year he led his team for the third straight season with a career-high 132 stops, including 72 solos.

Is he ready to start at middle linebacker in the National Football League?

"I'm really not worried about starting right now. I'm worried about finishing," he said. "If I have to play a back-up role, that's fine."

BEARS TRAINING CAMP INFO

Site: University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Located approximately 180 miles northwest of Chicago; 22 miles east of Dubuque, Iowa; 75 miles southwest of Madison, Wis. Driving time from Chicago is about 3.5 hours.

Directions: (from Chicago area) Take I-90 west to 81, 81 west to 11, 11 west to 23, 23 north to 81 west.

Practice: The Bears will practice in Platteville through Aug. 20 with the exception of Aug. 7-9 and Aug. 13-15.

Phone: General camp (608-342-1201); public relations (608-342-1511).

Hotels: Best Western Governor Dodge (608-348-2301); Mound View Hotel (608-348-9518); Super Eight (608-348-8800).

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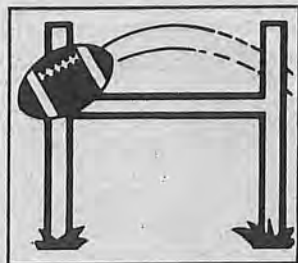
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EXTRA POINTS

INJURY EPIDEMIC HITS PLATTEVILLE

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

PLATTEVILLE, Wis.—Is there a doctor in the house? The Bears seemingly needed an entire platoon of medical personnel after a rash of injuries left them scratching their heads and icing their bumps and bruises late last week.

The most serious injury was a broken collarbone suffered by promising rookie tight end **Chris Gedney**. The third-round draft pick from Syracuse got hurt when he landed hard on the sideline after hauling in a pass and getting cremated by two tacklers during Saturday's intrasquad scrimmage.

The injury will not require surgery, but Gedney is expected to miss 8-10 weeks. That means he won't be back to the sixth or seventh week of the regular season.

"It's very discouraging," said head coach **Dave Wannstedt**. "He was making a lot of progress, and he was a guy we were counting on to help us."

Gedney's injury further depleted a tight ends corps that was already dwindling. Second-year man **Kelly Blackwell** was already out with a bad knee. Blackwell injured it during a vertical leap test before training camp. He ran on it last week and is expected back this week or next.

That left just two healthy tight ends in camp, veteran **Keith Jennings** and rookie free agent **Ryan Wetnight**. The Bears added a third when they signed free agent **Danta Whitaker** Tuesday afternoon. Whitaker was released by the Dolphins when they signed **Keith Byars**. For Jennings, it's a chance to further cement the starting spot that he held for all but two games in 1992.

"They don't ask the tight end to block in this scheme and it's not as physical," he said. "Last year you had to be physical to play tight end. That's coach Ditka's system. He was a physical tight end, and he

wanted everybody else to be physical."

"I think that helped me more than anything. It toughened me up. Now I think I can go anywhere and play."

The injury to Gedney busts the door off its hinges for Wetnight, a talented pass-catcher from Stanford. "He's making great progress," Wannstedt said of Wetnight. "We knew he could catch the football and we knew he could run. The thing that's surprised us is that he's done a nice job of blocking."

"The guy's got real good striking power and he's got good feet, and that's encouraging. He's been doing that all camp, even before Blackwell and Gedney got injured."

As the position thins out, Wannstedt says the Bears will utilize fullback **Craig Heyward** in a fill-in role at tight end. "He's capable of blocking like a tight end. We're probably putting a little more of a burden on him, but mentally he's been fine so far."

Other significant injured players include defensive lineman **Tim Ryan** (knee), running back **Neal Anderson** (hamstring), cornerback **Anthony Blaylock** (hamstring) and safety **John Mangum** (hamstring).

Ryan injured his knee during an inside handoff drill a few days before Saturday's scrimmage. He didn't require surgery but is expected to be out until the regular season opener with a slight tear. Anderson strained his hamstring—not the same one that he hurt in 1991—and should return this week. Meanwhile, Mangum's injury is more serious and he's expected to be out longer. Blaylock hurt his hamstring defending against Wendell Davis on a long pass up the left sideline during Monday's afternoon practice. His status has yet to be determined.

Though **Jeremy Lincoln** replaced Blaylock on the first team defense in practice, Wannstedt said that **Richard Fain** would start opposite **Donnell Woolford** if the season opened tomorrow.

Less serious aches and pains were suffered by Woolford, who needed two stitches in his upper lip after a collision with **Maurice Douglass**; and rookie first round pick **Curtis Conway**, who slightly sprained his ankle after making a catch in practice.

Fain, running back **Darren Lewis** and rookie defensive tackle **Carl Simpson** have received the lion's share of playing time in place of the injured players.

"It's going to happen and it's unfortunate for the guy who gets hurt, but it always gives somebody else a chance in there," Wannstedt said, searching for a bright spot. "That'll just add to our depth. That's the positive way to look at it, right?"



BIG BUCKS:

Woolford signed a three-year contract extension Tuesday worth a reported \$5.5 million. Woolford will receive \$1.25 million up front and will be paid salaries of \$1.2, \$1.4 and \$1.65 million in succeeding years.

Woolford will become the second-highest paid cornerback in the NFL this season and will have the highest average salary at that position in 1994. As one of the Bears' transition players, Woolford was guaranteed to make the average of the top 10 cornerbacks in the league.

Last week fellow cornerback **Lemuel Stinson** agreed to terms after a short hold-out.

Last month quarterback **Peter Tom Willis** agreed to a two-year deal worth a reported \$1.2 million. That leaves only tackle **Keith Van Horne** and linebacker **John Roper** unsigned. Van Horne is expected in this week or next, while Roper's chances of ever wearing a Bears uniform again are microscopic. Expect Roper to be traded, possibly to the Eagles.

"John and his agent feel that they'll get more money from another team in some point in time than they ever will from us," said Bears finance boss **Ted Phillips**. "We tried to initiate contract discussions with them and they went nowhere. It was a very brief conversation."

With no heir apparent at right tackle, Van Horne's value rises every day. The Bears fully expect the veteran to return for his 13th season any day now.

"I'm confident he'll be in," Phillips said. "We'd like to get him in this week if we could, but I'm not sure that's realistic right now."



IN THE CARDS: Former Bear long-snapper **Mark Rodenhauser** will never



Defensive tackle **Tim Ryan** is expected to be out until the regular season opener with a knee injury. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

forget how he felt the time he saw his first football card. And it's something he'd like to share with football fans throughout the country.

Rodenhauser and a Chicago partner have created Premier Custom Cardz, a company that creates football cards out of any photograph. This way, you don't have to get drafted by the Bears to have your own football card.

"I was a little frustrated having been in the league for five years and never having a football card made of me," said Rodenhauser, currently a member of the Lions. "When I got it I was so elated. It was such a neat feeling, and I knew others would like to experience that, too."

Premier Custom Cardz offers a variety of promotional packages. A two-card set generally runs less than \$10. Call 708-510-0507 for more information.



NEWS, NOTES & NONSENSE: The monotony of Platteville is being eased for a few players by animal companions. Defensive linemen **Ryan** and **Steve McMichael** each brought their dogs along, while **Mark Green** bunks with his pet caterpillar, Fuzzy Freddy. "I found him sitting on my kitchen counter before I came up here," Green said. "I put some grass in a small box and brought him up here with me."

...There's little doubt who's running this team. In case you haven't seen it, the cover of the Bears 1993 media guide features Wannstedt and **Mike McCaskey**.

...Former Bear **Gary Fencik**, who works at a Chicago bank in addition to broadcasting Bear games on WGN-Radio, will host "Sports Business Report," a syndicated weekly radio show produced by the Westwood One Radio Network.

Chicago television sportscaster **Tim Weigel** must be one of the few Chicagoans who feels comfortable in Platteville. Just outside of town, there's a big sign that welcomes passersby to "Tim Weigel's farm." TV Tim isn't related to farmer Tim, but farmer Tim apparently has dozens of area relatives. There are over 30 Weigels in the Platteville phone book, TV Tim reports proudly.

"Huddle talk

They have to be more than aggressive. They have to be rotten individuals. They have to be the toughest guy on the team.

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--Offensive line coach **Tony Wise** on his troops.

Rookies look to make a name for themselves as Browns visit

PLATTEVILLE, Wis. — In past training camps, Bears players had their names scribbled on a piece of white tape across the back of their helmets.

That way, former coach Mike Ditka would be able to identify promising rookies or unsung free-agent long-shots. More often, he would simply say, "That No. 80 is an interesting guy" or "No. 71 has a good motor."

There are no names scribbled on the Bears' helmets this year. New coach Dave Wannstedt wants members of his 80-man training camp roster to make a name for themselves by their actions.

Several young players already have caught Wannstedt's attention. The recent rookie scrimmage with the Cleveland Browns provided more evidence.

Free agent wide receiver Terry Obee, second-year fullback Bob Christian, free agent linebackers Tim Paulk and Reggie Cooper, and rookie free agent tight end Ryan Wetnight are among the early long-shot candidates to make the final cut when rosters are reduced to 47 players on Aug. 30.

A combination of more renowned high draft picks and offseason acquisitions such as cornerback Tony Blaylock, fullback Craig Heyward, linebacker Joe Cain, wide receiver Curtis Conway, defensive linemen Albert Fontenot and Carl Simpson and tight end Chris Gedney are being counted on to make major contributions this season.

"I am looking for players who, when

FRED MITCHELL



everybody is hurt and everybody is tired of the training camp grind, will not let that interfere with the job that needs to be done," said Wannstedt. "We are looking for guys who can withstand this and do things right."

Quarterback Shane Matthews, an undrafted free agent out of Florida, finally got some snaps in the rookie scrimmage against the Browns in Pioneer Stadium.

"I was just glad to finally get in, it has been a long time," said Matthews. "I was a little bit rusty, but I did some things well. I made a few bad reads here and there. Hopefully, I will get another chance."

The Bears rookies emerged from the scrimmage without any major injuries and several young players stood out.

"I thought Carl Simpson made some plays full-speed that he has been doing all the time in practice," said Wannstedt. "We got some good pressure out of

(Syracuse defensive lineman) Garland Hawkins at times. And (California full-back) Greg Zomalt had a couple of nice runs. It was good work because a lot of guys haven't had a lot of reps."

Conway returned some kickoffs against the Browns in simulated drills.

"He needs as much of that as he can get," said Wannstedt. "And he will get a dose of that in the preseason games. He will be the deep guy and he has got to do it full speed and realize the difference in speed and intensity at this level."

To make this year's Bears roster, long-shot candidates actually have to fulfill two requirements.

"Anybody who is not a starter on this football team... particularly the linebackers and the defensive backs and the running backs...they will have to be a contributor on special teams," said Wannstedt.

Obee, a swift wide receiver who has been catching everything in sight this summer, has been in training camps in Seattle and Minnesota in past years.

This year, he might stick around with the Bears.

"I just want to keep playing hard and keep playing well like I have been doing," said Obee. "I have been playing like this in different camps, but I think this is a better opportunity for me."

"I had strained my hamstring before in camps and that was a big reason (for being cut) in Minnesota. But I am over that now. I feel a lot better. I think I am doing well and I am catching on."

"Terry Obee is doing extremely well to this point," said Wannstedt. "Terry has been through this before and he knows what it takes. We will get him the ball in the preseason a little bit. Once we get through the training camp and once they get an opportunity to play in the preseason, then I am looking for guys who make plays at every position. We will put him in there and see if he can make some plays."

Obee has been able to turn some heads in spite of the excellent camp turned in by Conway so far.

With Gedney nursing a broken collarbone and second-year tight end Kelly Blackwell missing the first two weeks following knee surgery, the tight end position had been depleted. Wetnight has done a respectable job taking reps behind starter Keith Jennings and Danta Whitaker.

"This is a great opportunity for me because we have some guys down," said Wetnight. "I just have to make the most of it when I get out there and make every play count. It is a long shot for a free agent to make the team. So you can't make too many mistakes out here."

"Coach Ron Turner (Bears offensive coordinator) coached me over at Stanford two years ago, so I know the offense. It is just a matter of adjusting to the physical part of the NFL. So far I have made my share of plays and I have made my share of mistakes."

Matthews also is staring at some long odds playing behind Jim Harbaugh, Peter Tom Willis and Will Furrer.

"He would be a guy that we look at as a possible third quarterback or developmental-type guy, if it gets to that point," said Wannstedt. "He is doing fine, it is just tough to get him work."

Fred Mitchell covers the Bears for the Chicago Tribune.

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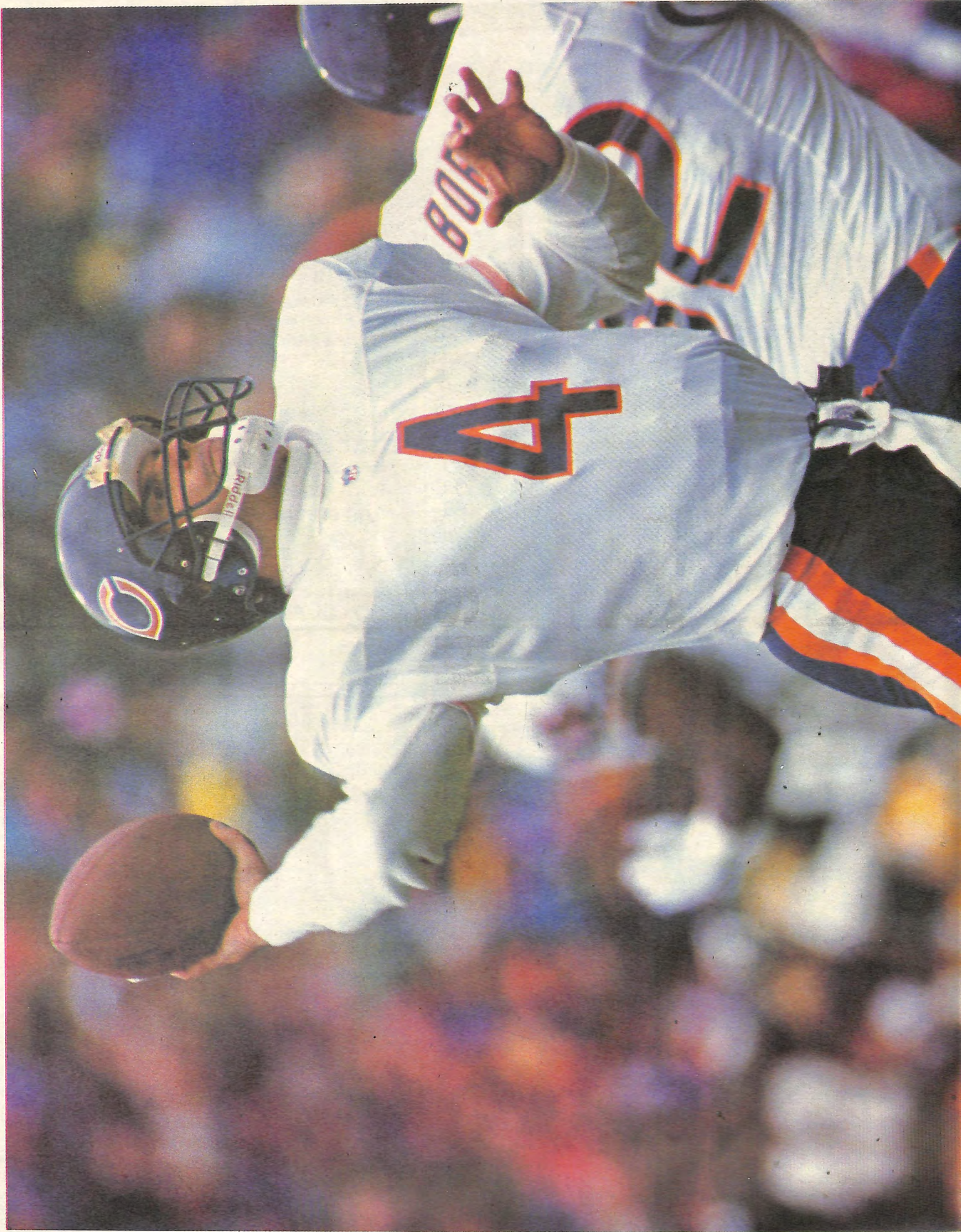
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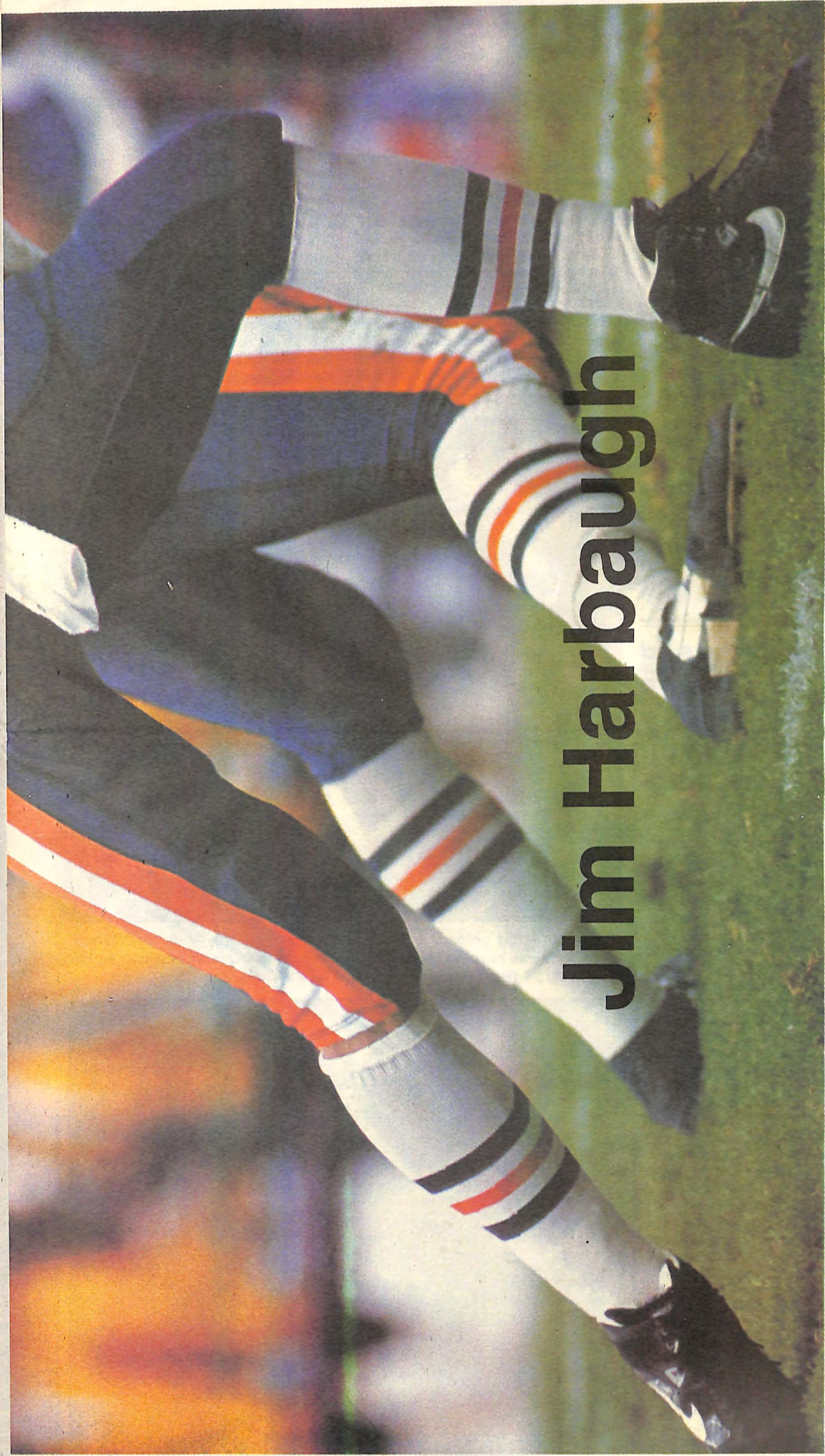
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Jim Harbaugh

Chicago

BEAR REPORT

Offense sloppy in scrimmage

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

PLATTEVILLE, Wis.—The first public display of the Bears' newfangled offense didn't exactly strike fear into the hearts of other NFL teams. The defense dominated the Bears' intrasquad scrimmage, recording eight sacks and limiting rushers to 86 yards on 26 attempts.

The afternoon's only touchdown came on a 13-yard pass from Jim Harbaugh to Wendell Davis during a two-minute drill that concluded the July 24 scrimmage before 6,119 fans at Platteville's Pioneer Stadium.

"Obviously, you would have liked to have scored more, but today was the first day we strung together a series of plays," said coach Dave Wannstedt. "Guys got tired, and you expect that. The thing I didn't like was when we got tired we didn't execute like we have to."

"Sloppy," said offensive line coach Tony Wise in characterizing his unit's performance. "The effort was good, but there was not any progress."

In intrasquad games, there's a positive for every negative, and vice versa. Saturday's bright spot was the defense, especially the line, which overpowered the offense and routinely penetrated into the backfield. Middle linebacker Dante Jones led the charge, recording a team-high nine tackles. On one play he stood up bulky

fullback Craig Heyward and drove him back, no small feat considering Heyward's size and strength.

"Overall I was pleased with the defense," Wannstedt said. "Steve McMichael had a nice day and Mark Carrier did a nice job in the backfield."

Offensively, rookie first-round draft pick Curtis Conway made two outstanding catches. He snared one above his head after a neat adjustment away from a linebacker, and he kept the two-minute drill rolling by grabbing a batted ball for a 36-yard gain much later.

"The first one I had to alter my route and stretch out a bit because the linebacker was in the seam," Conway explained. "On the last one I had to suck it up and concentrate on the ball after we both tipped it."

Conway, who played despite a sore ankle, also dropped a couple of catchable passes.

"Conway was pressing a little bit," Wannstedt said. "It's a shame. He made a couple of nice plays but had a chance to make two or three other ones he normally would have made."

Conway refused to blame the drops on his ankle injury. "At first it was hurting,

"I think we need to pick up the intensity quite a bit and play with a little more emotion."

but once I got in there it didn't really bother me," he said. "I wasn't pressing. I lost my concentration on a few passes. I made some passes look good and I made some look bad."

Conway wasn't the only receiver who dropped a couple of balls. The passing game looked weak as Jim Harbaugh (10-18, 96 yards), Peter Tom Willis (9-23, 53) and Will Furrer (3-7, 8) combined to complete just 22 of 48 passes for 157 yards. Willis looked especially awful, fumbling two snaps and getting sacked four times.

"There were some drops out here and we had a couple of quarterback exchange problems which we didn't really have all week in drills," Wannstedt said. "We've got to structure things a little bit more to get our people in situations where they're on the field a little longer and still able to execute."

Good or bad, the Bears shouldn't be judged on their first scrimmage, let alone their preseason games. It'll take some time to learn the new scheme, something Harbaugh is well aware of.

"We were a little tentative," he admitted. "The coaches said it seemed like we were walking on eggshells at times. The two-minute drill was great. But offensively I think we need to pick up the intensity quite a bit and play with a little more emotion. We've got to turn it loose and play a little more aggressively. We have a lot of areas to improve in."

"I made some mistakes, we had some dropped balls, and we had some sacks."

Offensive coordinator Ron Turner, who will be calling the plays this season from an upstairs coaches box, wasn't discouraged after the scrimmage.

"When you put in a new system, it doesn't happen overnight," Turner said. "Everything is based on timing and precision. You can't simulate that in practice no matter what you do. In the scrimmage the tempo is much quicker and it takes a couple times to get used to that."

"We've only been here a week and we've tried to put in a lot of different situations. I'm real happy with the progress."

Conway, Tom Waddle, Wendell Davis, receiver Terry Obee and fullback Bob

Christian each had three receptions. Darren Lewis led rushers with 23 yards on 10 carries. Neal Anderson sat out the scrimmage with a hamstring injury.

Of the quarterbacks, Harbaugh played the best. He scrambled, hit open receivers, and made good decisions. He doesn't think the new coaches are adding too much too soon. Wannstedt was asked the same question.

"I don't think so," he said. "If we didn't have any drops today and we just lined up and couldn't move the ball maybe then. But we had opportunities to make plays. We just didn't make them."



Peter Tom Willis unloads under heavy pressure (top), while Mark Green looks for some running room (below) during the Bears' intrasquad scrimmage July 24. (Bear Report photos by Steve Woltmann)



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SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

PLATTEVILLE, Wis.—Rookie defensive linemen Albert Fontenot and Carl Simpson distinguished themselves in Saturday's intrasquad scrimmage. Fontenot sped around tackle and collected two sacks, while Simpson recorded half a sack and two tackles.

Fontenot, a fourth round draft choice from Baylor, is lightning quick and fits Dave Wannstedt's speed defense like a glove. Fontenot had 11 sacks at Baylor last season.

"I got a good chance to show that I can play and do what I was brought in here to do, and that's rush the passer," said the 6-foot-4, 260-pound end. "I think I did a pretty decent job, but I still have a long way to go. I do have good teachers in front of me, though."

Simpson, a second round pick, got more of an opportunity to showcase his skills after Tim Ryan went down with a knee injury a few days before the scrimmage. Simpson produced 20 sacks from the tackle position over his final two seasons at Florida State.

"When I first got out there I was kind of nervous," said Simpson, always candid with interviewers. "Then I started thinking that these people are just like me. They put their pants on like me, so I decided to go out and play football like I'm capable. I'd rate myself as alright. I'd never give myself a great. I think I did okay. I've got a lot of work to do to improve."



Rookie Albert Fontenot from Baylor had a team-high two sacks in the Bears' intrasquad scrimmage. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

Young guns impress in first scrimmage

Simpson was previously a fan of William Perry's from afar. Now that the two are teammates he's even more astonished at the Fridge's athletic ability.

"He's amazing. You see him on TV and think he can move a little bit, but he can *really* move," Simpson said. "And he plays hard."

Simpson is gradually adjusting to life in the NFL. "I'm feeling comfortable with the scheme, I'm getting used to the personnel and the bigger guys in the pros, and I'm keeping my intensity up every play," he said.



Tom Waddle has always been Mr. Consistency, regardless of who's playing quarterback or even who's coaching the team. He catches everything thrown his way by concentrating on only the task at hand.

"I think I played alright," Waddle said after catching three passes in the scrimmage. "You try to make as many plays as you can, know your assignments, and do what you're told."

Waddle isn't concerned about what was an unproductive offense last Saturday. "I think our offense has done well," he said. "You can't come in after five days of practice and expect to be a phenomenal team. I think it's going to take some time. Everyone's grasped it well, it's just a matter of executing it."

Wannstedt believes the Bears will improve their cohesiveness by working on more things as a unit. The team ran more "team" drills last Monday following a day off Sunday. "We need to do more full-speed work as a team," he said. "We've been getting good execution in the individual and group drills. We addressed the need for more team work, and the guys responded today."



There were no communication snafus during the intrasquad game. The Bears signaled plays in from the sideline, something they'll do during the regular season.

Offensive coordinator Ron Turner will call the plays from a coaches booth, relaying



Quarterback Jim Harbaugh says that signaling plays in from the sideline will be smoother this season. Harbaugh completed 10 of 18 passes for 96 yards and 1 TD in the intrasquad scrimmage. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

them to sideline coaches Mike Shula or Ivan Fears.

In the past, play-calling was routinely a battle of wills between coach Mike Ditka and offensive coordinator Greg Landry. If nothing else, the process should be smoother this season.

"We've got the signals down," quarterback Jim Harbaugh said. "That's no problem at all."

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Don't fret over woeful offense

Bears fans shouldn't panic just because the offense looked so poor in the intrasquad scrimmage. In all my years of training camp the offense never controlled the first scrimmage of the summer. That's just a fact of life. The defense is always ahead early.

The two things that impressed me most about the defense were the line and the cornerbacks. The line did a lot of stunting, and they really fired across the ball and penetrated. The cornerbacks came up on the football and didn't give that big cushion that teams routinely use to burn the Bears with 10-yard out patterns.

The defensive line caused a lot of problems for the offense because they really fired off the ball and got up the field. When that happens, the pass rush improves without necessarily having to blitz. In Saturday's scrimmage, the defense did blitz occasionally, and the offense didn't pick it up. The defense was credited with eight sacks.

Some of the younger guys impressed me most. Albert Fontenot demonstrated his speed and quickness from the outside. He recorded two sacks by sprinting around tackle. Inside, Carl Simpson showed why he figures heavily in the Bears' plans this season. Second-year guys like Chris Zorich and Alonzo Spellman also distinguished themselves in the scrimmage.

Offensively, I think the Bears' strength this season will be at wide receiver, assuming of course that the running game gets off its feet and is relatively productive. Anthony Morgan looks all-world out there, Wendell Davis and Tom Waddle are so consistent, and there's always Curtis Conway's speed as a viable threat. Conway dropped some balls but hauled in a couple of tough catches. As he learns more, I think he'll become more comfortable with the offense and that should be reflected in his play.

One surprise was receiver Terry Obee. He made a couple of nice grabs and could make the team because of his special teams ability. He'll probably have to beat out Eric Wright.

In the backfield, I was a little leery of Craig Heyward and his well-documented weight situation. But after seeing him play

DOUG BUFFONE



he's really amazing. The guy is overweight, but he could hurt somebody out there. He's a very powerful back who has such soft hands he can be utilized coming out of the backfield to catch some passes. "Ironhead" really impressed me. He took all his reps in practice and he does his job.

Obviously, the big question is "Who's the halfback?" It's gotta be either Neal Anderson, Darren Lewis or Mark Green. Neal was anointed the starter, but he's suffering from a nagging hamstring injury. Sound familiar? That's what ruined his season in 1991. We can only hope it's not something that develops into a long-range problem.

The rash of injuries the Bears suffered late last week happens in every training camp. You just have to work through it. At least it gives your reserves a chance to take some snaps with the first unit.

While I was impressed with the play of cornerbacks Donnell Woolford, Anthony Blaylock and Richard Fain, the linebacker situation is a little more up in the air. One thing is certain, however: Joe Cain looks like he's the most consistent player at that position. Obviously, this has to be the year Dante Jones comes into his own, and Ron Cox must stay healthy to be effective.

I felt the rookie who had the best chance of making an impact this season was tight end Chris Gedney. He made some spectacular catches in practice, and looked like he had a little Jay Novacek in him. But then he broke his collarbone during the scrimmage, and he's out 8-10 weeks.

Besides Gedney, there were a lot of young guys in there. And this coaching



Bears cornerbacks such as Lemuel Stinson came up to the football aggressively in Saturday's scrimmage, reflecting the new defensive philosophy. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

staff won't be afraid to play young guys all season. I think the staff is real good. You can tell they're primarily teachers. They get in there and demonstrate hands-on.

One young guy who will likely see a lot of action is Spellman. He's really excelling during the first couple of weeks of camp. He's so intense he was even

yelling at one of his coaches because he didn't think he was getting enough reps. With an attitude like that, how can you keep him off the field?

Former Bears star linebacker Doug Buffone hosts the Doug Buffone Sports Magazine every Sunday morning on SportsChannel Chicago.

Intrasquad Stats

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.	TD	LG	SK
4 Harbaugh	18	10	0	96	0	36	1
10 Willis	23	9	0	53	1	13	4
2 Furrer	7	3	0	8	0	13	3
Totals	48	22	0	157	1	62	8
RUSHING	Att.	Gain	Lost	Net	Long		
31 Green	4	17	2	15	8		
33 Lewis	10	29	6	23	8		
44 Christian	2	3	0	3	2		
45 Heyward	3	9	0	9	3		
22 Brewer	3	9	0	9	7		
4 Harbaugh	2	14	0	14	9		
10 Willis	1	0	-1	-1	-1		
2 Furrer	1	14	0	14	14		
Totals	26	95	7	86	52		

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

	UT	AT	Tot.	for Loss	Fum. Rcvd.	Pass Int.	Pass BrUp	Pass Sacks
20 Carrier	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	0
23 Gayle	0	8	8	-4	0	0	0	0
24 Fain	3	2	5	0	0	0	3	0
27 Goodwin	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
32 Stinson	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
36 Paul	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
37 Douglass	3	2	5	0	0	1	0	0
39 Lincoln	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
47 Blaylock	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
53 Jones	5	4	9	0	0	0	0	-10
54 Cox	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
59 Cain	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
65 Baker	0	3	3	0	0	0	1	0
42 Perry	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
74 Fontenot	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
76 McMichael	0	2	2	-2	0	0	0	0
90 Spellman	0	1	1	-2	0	0	0	1/2
91 Paulk	2	3	5	1	0	0	0	1
93 Armstrong	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
94 Kmet	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
95 Dent	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	1
96 Cooper	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
97 Zorich	2	3	5	-1	0	0	0	1
98 Simpson	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1/2

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Obee emerging from darkness

Special teams skill could help free agent earn spot on roster

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

PLATTEVILLE, Wis.—With the glare of the spotlight intensely focused on rookie first-round draft pick Curtis Conway, free agent receiver Terry Obee is excelling in the shadows. Obee, who played sparingly with the Vikings last season, is catching everything thrown his way in training camp.

He had three receptions for 21 yards in Saturday's intrasquad scrimmage, and is also a dangerous threat on special teams. Obee holds University of Oregon records for punt returns (123) and return yards (1,178). He also led the Ducks in receiving his final three seasons there, catching 119 passes for 2,200 yards and 14 TDs.

"I've got to keep striving to improve," said Obee, originally signed as a free agent by the Seahawks in 1990. "We've got a lot of good receivers out here, but I know I can compete. I just try to come in every day and do the best I can."

At 5-foot-10 and 188 pounds, Obee doesn't have great size. But his special teams ability could give him an edge in battling for a roster spot.

"Special teams is going to be a big factor," he said. "I've been returning kicks and punts here. I have to do whatever it takes to make the team. Special teams is going to be the big thing for me, but also my receiving ability will dictate my opportunity on special teams."

Conway, Wendell Davis, Anthony



Free agent acquisition Anthony Blaylock was turning heads with his aggressive play before injuring his hamstring defending against Wendell Davis in a drill last Monday. (Bear Report file photo)

Morgan and Tom Waddle are all well ahead of him. But the Bears likely will keep five receivers, which could mean heated competition between Obee and Eric Wright.

"I don't really look at it like that," Obee said. "I'm just competing against myself and trying to get better."

"He's a gutsy little guy and it's going to be interesting," said coach Dave Wannstedt. "He does a lot of things.

Besides playing receiver, he's a punt returner, a kickoff returner, and he'll cover kicks. He knows what it takes to make a run to make this football team."

Speaking of Conway, he played in Saturday's scrimmage despite a sore ankle. He twisted it two days before and

sat out Friday's practices.

"We weren't even sure he was going to scrimmage, but he wanted to play and he came out and competed," Wannstedt said.

Conway caught three passes for 59 yards. He made two tough grabs but also dropped a couple of catchable balls.

"I think it's important to start off good," Conway said. "If you come out feeling sluggish and you don't catch the first pass, it can mess with you in some situations. I'm a rookie and I've only played receiver for really a year and a half. I still have a lot to learn. I'm still learning how to run routes.

"I think right now I'm playing off a lot of raw talent. Once I learn to be a true receiver, everything will come."

Conway didn't get an opportunity to demonstrate his other skills because there were no punts or kickoffs in the scrimmage.



Cornerback Anthony Blaylock was exceeding expectations before he went down with a hamstring injury last Monday.

"Blaylock was doing outstanding," Wannstedt said. "Not only is he doing what we thought he could physically, but he's really taking a role like he's not a new guy on the team. He's trying to show some leadership. He's as competitive as any player we have out there on defense."

That was evident when he got hurt. He battled receiver Wendell Davis for a deep pass that eventually fell incomplete.

"Anytime the ball is up there like that, he's going for it," Davis said. "He's very competitive. We were fighting for the ball and all I remember is going underneath him. He went over the top and then grabbed his hamstring."



Kozlowski's career likely over

Special teams standout Glen Kozlowski went out the same way he came in: with a bum knee.

The seven-year veteran was placed on injured reserve for the entire 1993 season because of a degenerative arthritic knee.

After being selected in the 11th round of the 1986 draft, Kozlowski missed his entire first season rehabilitating a knee he had injured during his senior season at BYU.

Kozlowski played in only four games in 1993 because of injuries. He caught one pass for seven yards and made four special teams tackles. In 1992, Kozlowski led the Bears for the third straight season with 35 special teams tackles.

Though he hasn't officially announced his retirement, it's highly doubtful he'll ever play football again.

Kozlowski is 30 years old. He played in 66 games with the Bears, caught 31 passes and made three starts in seven seasons. All three starts came in 1987.

Kozlowski was released in 1987 but rejoined the team for non-union games. He ultimately stuck as the club's fifth receiver and a special teams gunner who excelled due more to his heart than his athletic ability.

Koz caught a career-high 15 passes for 199 yards in 1987, then never had more than seven receptions in any one year.

However, his value on special teams was immeasurable, and he quickly became a favorite of head coach Mike Ditka.

Kozlowski will remain with the team to break down videotape. He'll also have more time to devote to his wife and four sons.





Chicago Bears

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age*	Yr.	College
2	Will Furrer	QB	6-3	209	25	2	Virginia Tech
4	Jim Harbaugh	QB	6-3	215	29	7	Michigan
6	Kevin Butler	K	6-1	190	30	9	Georgia
8	Scott Bonnell	K	5-10	167	23	R	Indiana
9	Shane Matthews	QB	6-3	192	23	R	Florida
10	Peter Tom Willis	QB	6-2	204	26	4	Florida State
11	Troy Faunce	P	6-2	195	29	1	Kansas State
16	Antonio Johnson	WR/KR	5-8	195	24	R	Syracuse
17	Chris Gardocki	P/K	6-1	196	23	3	Clemson
18	Terry Obee	WR	5-10	188	25	1	Oregon
19	Larry Wynn	WR	6-1	181	21	R	Northern Illinois
20	Mark Carrier	S	6-1	192	25	4	USC
21	Donnell Woolford	CB	5-9	185	27	5	Clemson
22	Dawell Brewer	HB	5-8	203	23	R	Oklahoma
23	Shaun Gayle	S	5-11	202	31	10	Ohio State
24	Richard Fain	CB	5-10	180	25	3	Florida
25	Keshon Johnson	CB	5-10	177	23	R	Arizona
26	John Mangum	S	5-10	178	26	4	Alabama
27	Matt Goodwin	CB	6-1	223	23	R	Iowa State
29	Tracy Saul	S	5-10	179	22	R	Texas Tech
30	Carlos Fleeks	HB	6-0	200	22	R	Hampton
31	Mark Green	RB	5-11	190	26	5	Notre Dame
32	Lemuel Stinson	CB	5-9	180	27	6	Texas Tech
33	Darren Lewis	RB	5-10	225	24	3	Texas A & M
35	Neal Anderson	RB	5-11	215	29	8	Florida
36	Markus Paul	S	6-2	200	27	5	Syracuse
37	M. Douglass	CB	5-11	202	29	7	Kentucky
38	Greg Zornalt	FB	6-2	210	22	R	California
39	Jeremy Lincoln	CB	5-10	184	24	2	Tennessee
43	Kenny Wilhite	CB	5-8	189	23	R	Nebraska
44	Bob Christian	RB	5-10	225	24	1	Northwestern
45	Craig Heyward	FB	5-11	260	26	6	Pittsburgh
46	John Ilov	FB	5-11	226	23	R	Colorado State
47	Tony Blaylock	CB	5-10	185	28	6	Winston-Sal. St.
51	Jim Morrissey	LB	6-3	225	30	9	Michigan State
52	Jim Schwartz	LB	6-2	232	23	1	Purdue
53	Dante Jones	LB	6-1	238	28	6	Oklahoma
54	Ron Cox	LB	6-2	235	25	4	Fresno State
55	John Roper	LB	6-1	235	27	5	Texas A & M
57	Tom Thayer	G	6-4	284	32	9	Notre Dame
58	J. Leeuwenburg	C	6-2	290	24	2	Colorado
59	Joe Cain	LB	6-1	233	28	5	Oregon Tech
60	Stan Thomas	T	6-5	295	24	3	Texas
62	Mark Bortz	G	6-6	282	32	11	Iowa
63d	Dave Hoffmann	MLB	6-2	229	23	R	Washington
63o	Todd Burger	G	6-3	266	23	R	Penn State
64d	Maurice Miller	LB	6-3	217	23	R	Wake Forest
64o	Mirko Jurkovic	G	6-3	290	23	2	Notre Dame
65	Myron Baker	LB	6-1	221	22	R	Louisiana Tech
67	Jerry Fontenot	G/C	6-3	287	26	5	Texas A & M
68d	Garland Hawkins	DE	6-3	232	23	R	Syracuse
69	Vernice Smith	G	6-3	298	27	5	Florida A & M
70	Troy Auzenne	T	6-7	290	24	2	California
71	James Williams	DT	6-7	335	25	3	Cheyney St.
72	William Perry	DT	6-2	335	30	9	Clemson
73	J. Wojciechowski	G	6-4	280	30	7	Michigan State
74d	Albert Fontenot	DE	6-4	260	22	R	Baylor
74o	Tony Nichols	T	6-4	290	22	R	San Diego State
75	Todd Perry	G	6-5	291	22	R	Kentucky
76	Steve McMichael	DT	6-2	268	35	14	Texas
78	Keith Van Home	T	6-6	290	35	13	USC
79	Louis Age	T	6-7	350	23	2	SW Louisiana
80	Curtis Conway	WR/KR	6-0	185	22	R	USC
81	Anthony Morgan	WR	6-1	195	25	3	Tennessee
82	Wendell Davis	WR	5-11	188	27	6	LSU
83	Eric Wright	WR	6-0	203	24	2	Steph. E. Austin
84	Chris Gedney	TE	6-5	254	23	R	Syracuse
85	Keith Jennings	TE	6-4	260	27	4	Clemson
86	Kelly Blackwell	TE	6-1	255	24	2	TCU
87	Tom Waddle	WR	6-0	185	26	4	Boston College
89	Ryan Wetnight	TE	6-2	225	22	R	Stanford
90	Alonzo Spellman	DE	6-4	282	21	2	Ohio State
91	Tim Paulk	LB	6-1	230	25	1	Florida
92	Rico Mack	LB	6-4	226	22	R	Appalachian St.
93	Trace Armstrong	DE	6-4	265	27	5	Florida
94	Frank Kmet	DL	6-3	289	23	1	Purdue
95	Richard Dent	DE	6-5	265	32	11	Tennessee St.
96	Reggie Cooper	LB	6-2	215	25	2	Nebraska
97	Chris Zorich	DT	6-1	284	24	3	Notre Dame
98	Carl Simpson	DT	6-2	278	23	R	Florida State
99	Tim Ryan	DT	6-4	265	25	4	USC

*Age as of Opening Day, 1993

Facts and Figures

Kickoff: 7 p.m. Chicago time, Sunday, Aug. 8.
Site: Veterans Stadium, Philadelphia.
Playing Surface: Artificial turf.
Last meeting: Bears won 27-13 at Soldier Field, Oct. 2, 1989.

Series history: Bears lead 24-4-1. Chicago has won six straight games. Eagles haven't defeated Bears since 1980.

Radio-TV coverage: The game will be televised nationally on TNT Sports. WGN-Radio and the Bears Radio Network will also carry the game live.

Dave Wannstedt makes his debut as a head football coach as the Bears open their pre-season schedule.

All eyes will be focused on quarterback Jim Harbaugh, who signed a four-year, \$13 million contract during the off-season. Learning the new scheme, Harbaugh is expected to play at least a half in the opener.

The Bears will play a lot of young players, especially on defense as Chicago looks to replace future Hall-of-Fame middle linebacker Mike Singletary. Rookies to watch include tackle Carl Simpson, linebacker Myron Baker and end Albert Fontenot.

Offensively, keep your eyes peeled on receiver Curtis Conway and tight end Ryan Wetnight.



Randall Cunningham



Philadelphia Eagles

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
72	David Alexander	C	6-3	275	29	7	Tulsa
21	Eric Allen	CB	5-10	180	27	6	Arizona State
82	Victor Bailey	WR	6-2	196	22	R	Missouri
62	Brian Baldinger	G/T	6-4	278	33	12	Duke
24g	Corey Barlow	CB	5-9	182	22	1	Auburn
u86	Fred Barnett	WR	6-0	199	27	4	Arkansas State
50	Ephesians Bartley	LB	6-2	213	23	2	Florida
84	Mark Bavaro	TE	6-4	245	30	8	Notre Dame
83	Pat Beach	TE	6-4	250	33	12	Washington St.
6	Bobby Brister	QB	6-3	207	30	8	NE Louisiana
67w	Danny Britten	OL	6-4	268	23	R	Boston College
39	Tony Brooks	RB	6-0	230	23	2	Notre Dame
65	Curt Brown	DL	6-4	233	23	R	North Carolina
53	Ivan Caesar	LB	6-2	239	26	2	Boston College
90	Michael Carter	DT	6-2	285	32	10	SMU
71	Mike Chalenski	DL	6-4	260	23	R	UCLA
18	Keita Crespina	DB	5-8	190	22	R	Temple
12	Randall Cunningham	QB	6-4	205	30	9	Nev.-Las Vegas
78	Antone Davis	T	6-4	325	26	3	Tennessee
49g	Curtis Eller	LB	6-0	225	22	R	Villanova
36	Aaron Emanuel	RB	6-1	230	25	1	USC
56	Byron Evans	LB	6-2	235	29	7	Arizona
5	Jeff Feagles	P	6-1	205	27	6	Miami
95	Mike Flores	DE	6-3	256	26	3	Louisville
61	Eric Floyd	T/G	6-5	310	27	4	Auburn
37g	Derrick Frazier	CB	5-10	178	23	R	Texas A&M
33	William Frizzell	S	6-3	206	30	10	N. Carolina Cent.
93	Donnie Gardner	DL	6-4	270	25	2	Kentucky
46	Tom Garlick	WR	5-10	180	21	R	Fordham
25	Tom Gerhart	S	6-1	195	28	1	Ohio U.
54	Britt Hager	LB	6-1	225	27	5	Texas
u91	Andy Harmon	DT	6-4	265	24	3	Kent State
97	Tim Harris	DE	6-6	258	28	8	Memphis State
45	Vaughn Hebron	RB	5-8	196	22	R	Virginia Tech
69	Mike Heller	C/G	6-1	225	23	R	Penn State
80	Bill Hess	WR	5-8	171	27	1	West Chester
u73	Lester Holmes	G	6-3	301	23	R	Jackson State
68	Brandon Houston	T	6-4	294	24	1	Oklahoma
66	John Hudson	G/C	6-2	275	25	4	Auburn
98	Tommy Jeter	DT	6-5	282	23	2	Texas
87	Maurice Johnson	TE	6-2	243	26	3	Temple
8	Preston Jones	QB	6-3	223	23	R	Georgia
32	James Joseph	RB	6-2	222	25	3	Auburn
59	Seth Joyner	LB	6-2	235	28	8	Texas-El Paso
57	Scott Kowalkowski	LB	6-2	228	24	3	Notre Dame
19w	Reginald Lawrence	WR	6-0	178	23	R	N. Carolina St.
47	Mike McKenzie	TE	6-2	247	22	R	Baylor
43	Erik McMillan	S	6-2	200	28	6	Missouri
29	Mark McMillan	CB	5-7	162	23	2	Alabama
38	Rich Miano	S	6-1	200	30	9	Hawaii
88	Joey Mickey	TE	6-5	288	22	R	Oklahoma
77	Keith Millard	DT	6-5	263	31	8	Washington St.
31	Fred Montgomery	WR	5-10	187	21	R	New Mexico St.
24w	Chris Murphy	WR	6-0	175	22	R	Georgetown
58	Derrick Oden	LB	5-11	230	22	R	Alabama
74	Gerald Nichols	DT	6-2	260	29	6	Florida State
3	Carl Petetti	K	5-9	195	23	1	Miami
52	Jason Pohopek	LB	6-1	220	22	R	Boston College
67g	Robert Presbury	DL	6-3	275	28	1	Delaware State
42g	Mike Reid	S	6-1	218	22	R	N. Carolina St.
94	Leonard Renfro	DT	6-2	291	23	R	Colorado
19g	Dave Roberts	DB	5-11	200	22	R	Youngstown St.
55	Ken Rose	LB	6-1	215	31	7	Nev.-Las Vegas
9	Roger Ruzek	K	6-1	200	32	7	Weber State
79	Mike Schad	G	6-5	290	29	8	Queens
4	Chris Schrock	P	6-2	225	22	R	Boston University
75	Rob Selby	G	6-3	286	25	3	Auburn
u23	Heath Sherman	RB	6-0	205	26	5	Texas A&I
22	Vai Sikaheima	WR	5-9	196	31	8	Brigham Young
96	Clyde Simmons	DE	6-6	280	28	8	Western Carolina
63	Doug Skene	G	6-6	294	23	R	Michigan
26	Ben Smith	CB	5-11	185	26	4	Georgia
30	Otis Smith	CB	5-11	184	27	4	Missouri
27	Siran Stacy	RB	5-11	203	24	2	Alabama
85	Jeff Sydnor	WR	5-6	170	23	2	Hawaii
42w	Markus Thomas	RB	5-10	192	23	R	Eastern Kentucky
51	William Thomas	LB	6-2	218	24	3	Texas A&M
76	Broderick Thompson	T/G	6-5	295	32	8	Kansas
37w	Mike Titley	TE	6-1	243	25	1	Iowa
49	Aaron Turner	WR	5-11	178	22	R	Pacific
34	Herschel Walker	RB	6-1	225	31	8	Georgia
20	Andre Waters	SS	5-11	200	31	10	Cheyney
11	Casey Weldon	QB	6-1	200	24	2	Florida State
89	Calvin Williams	WR	5-11	190	26	4	Purdue

g - Green jersey, w - White jersey



HOME GAMES

Name: Tom Waddle
Position: Wide Receiver
College: Boston College
Ht., Wt.: 6-0, 185
Hometown: Cincinnati
Born: February 20, 1967
Family: Wife (Cara), daughter (Georgia Rose)
Acquired: Signed as free agent before 1989 season

Hobbies: My biggest hobby is spending time with my family, whether it's going to the park or just doing anything. I also love to play golf.

Best time of my life: My wedding day and the birth of my daughter.

Worst time of my life: When my father's parents both passed away and when my other grandfather got sick. Athletically, it was probably trying to get adjusted my first year here.

Worst job I ever had: I worked at a fruit stand and the guy I worked for was a real tyrant.

Growing up: I always wanted to be a professional baseball player. I was a good player in Little League and I was fairly good in high school, but I knew I wasn't

good enough to play at a higher level than that. I played shortstop and center-field.

Favorite pigout food: Anything cooked by my father-in-law. Good Italian home cooking.

Most humbling experience: The birth of my daughter.

Favorite performers: Steve Martin, Sean Connery

Favorite childhood memory: Packing up the car with my parents and older brother and going on vacation to Florida. We used to do that all the time when I was growing up.

I've never been able to: Run a good 40.

I'd give anything to meet: The Pope. He's seen as head of the Catholic Church and, being Catholic, he's the figure you look to.

I stay home to watch: Athletic events like golf and basketball. Also comedies like "Cheers," "Home Improvement" and "Seinfeld."

Personal heroes: My parents, Bob and Ruth.

I'd like to trade places for a day with: Jack Nicklaus at the U.S. Open.

One word that best describes me: Genuine.



Tom and Cara Waddle wonder if there's a future kicker in the family at a party during last football season. Georgia Rose, the couple's first child, was born a few months later. (Bear Report file photo)

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Novel approach lures Dent back

The whole idea was that Richard Dent and Dave Wannstedt were going to be the perfect marriage of ability and philosophy.

Dent liked to roam and take advantage of his quickness, speed and instincts. Wannstedt, the successor to Mike Ditka, liked to turn players loose, get them flying to the football.

But Dent had always spoken his mind on contractual matters. And last spring the Bears made it clear, in a press release, they weren't going to renegotiate with him.

Dent maintained that he had kept his talks with the Bears private. And, he said, he felt betrayed when they went public with what amounted to a pre-emptive public relations strike against him, telling the world he wanted more money.

Wannstedt cringed. Just when he was hoping to forge a working relationship with one of the few defensive veterans who promised to truly blend with his style, the front office got in his way.

The stand-off continued until the weekend before the Bears convened in Platteville for summer training camp. Wannstedt, team president Michael McCaskey and contracts negotiator Ted Phillips were sitting around spitballing when they came up with a novel approach.

Dent had always been a thorn in the side

BRIAN HEWITT



to the Bears front office going back to the 80s. I'll never forget the day at practice that former Bears general manager was steamed that Dent was sitting out the workout with a leg sprain.

"He's got a sprained head," said Jerry Vainisi, who was embattled in a contract squabble with Dent at the time. Later, Ditka took to calling Dent "Robert."

Meanwhile Dent, a proud man, was having a great career. He is the Bears' all-time sack leader with 112 and third among active sackers in the NFL behind Lawrence Taylor (126.5) and Reggie White (124). His 10.5 playoff sacks are the highest in NFL history. And the 17.5 sacks he had in the Bears championship season of 1985 are a team record.

Last year, at the advanced NFL age of 31, Dent led the Bears defense with six forced fumbles. He started all 16 games. But he alienated a certain group of fans by suggesting that the Bears use him in situations best suited to his free-lancing abilities. Clearly, Dent was not made for Bears defensive coordinator Vince Tobin's read-and-react defense.

Anyway, the Bears' braintrust came up with a new contract, loaded with incentives. In it, they agreed to give him free agency after the 1993 season if he attained those incentives.

What Dent had wanted was more money. And this gave him the opportunity to earn a pile of dough as a free agent if he had a great season.

The odd part was that the better Dent played the more it guaranteed it wouldn't be back with the Bears in 1994. But the Bears liked the deal, too.

The Wannstedt defense of the near future will only get younger. By the time Wannstedt can take this team to the playoffs, Dent will be past his prime.

"I was doing my thing, they were doing theirs," Dent said of the negotiations. "If they called, they called. If they didn't, they didn't. That's the way I saw it."

After the deal was struck, both sides gave different versions. Dent said all he had to do was show up to attain the incentives. Phillips disagreed.

"All I have to do is be here," Dent said. "I haven't been here all year, so I just have to show up today and every day. It's very simple."

Dent went on to say that he wasn't necessarily looking to change uniforms after the 1993 season. "If they force my hand, I'm willing to take that step and move ahead somewhere else," he said. "I always wanted to play with one team and finish with one team. Hopefully that can

happen."

Finally there is this matter of Dent and his perception that the Bears have hindered his ability to make money off endorsements and speaking engagements. Dent has also complained that the league hasn't treated him fairly that way.

"The NFL has never been on my bandwagon to make things better for me," he said. "I think I've made things better for them. I have achieved a lot of things in the NFL that have never been achieved before. To me, it's overdue. You might get another player, you might not. But once it's gone, it's gone. You can't get it back. It feels like I've been fighting the league instead of being a representative of it. I think I have been a representative since I walked in a long shot and became a big shot."

Dent was an eighth-round pick out of Tennessee State in 1983. And the bottom



If Richard Dent meets certain incentives, he could become a free agent after the 1993 season. (Bear Report file photo)

line is that the contract settlement has enabled Dent and Wannstedt to cozy up to each other.

"You have to feel good about coming to work," Dent said. "I feel good about coming to work with coach Wannstedt."

Brian Hewitt covers the Bears and the NFL for the Chicago Sun-Times.

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Bears 1993 Schedule

PRESEASON

Date	Opponent	Time*	Network
Sun., Aug. 8	at Philadelphia Eagles	7:00 p.m.	TNT
Sat., Aug. 14	PHOENIX CARDINALS	7:00 p.m.	WMAQ
Mon., Aug. 23	at New Orleans Saints	7:00 p.m.	ABC
Fri., Aug. 27	DALLAS COWBOYS	8:00 p.m.	WMAQ

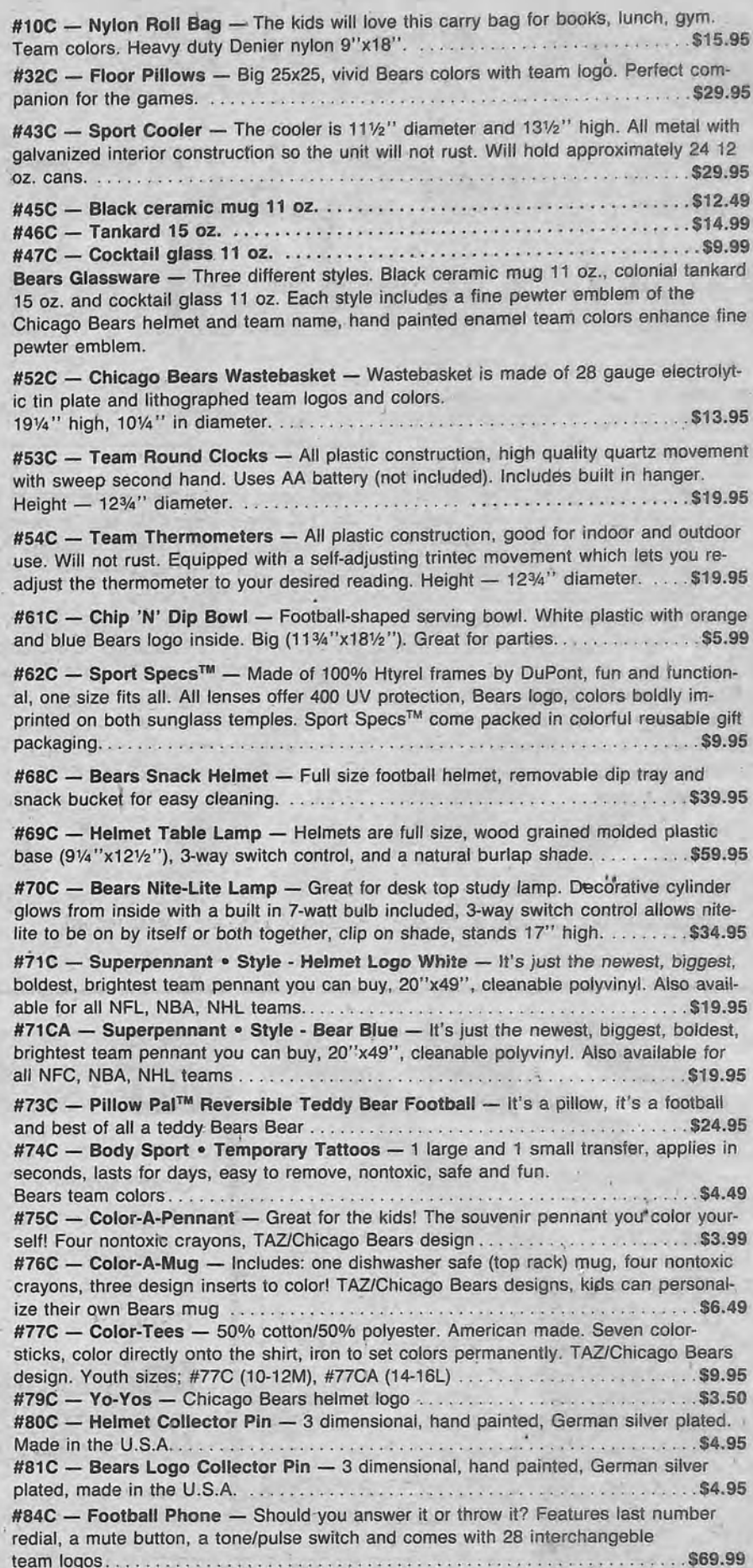
REGULAR SEASON

Sun., Sept. 5	NEW YORK GIANTS	3:00 p.m.	CBS
Sun., Sept. 12	at Minnesota Vikings	Noon	CBS
Sun., Sept. 19	Bye Week		
Sun., Sept. 26	TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	Noon	CBS
Sun., Oct. 3	ATLANTA FALCONS	Noon	CBS
Sun., Oct. 10	at Philadelphia Eagles	Noon	CBS
Sun., Oct. 17	Bye Week		
Mon., Oct. 25	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	8:00 p.m.	ABC
Sun., Oct. 31	at Green Bay Packers	Noon	CBS
Sun., Nov. 7	LOS ANGELES RAIDERS	3:00 p.m.	NBC
Sun., Nov. 14	at San Diego Chargers	7:00 p.m.	ESPN
Sun., Nov. 21	at Kansas City Chiefs	Noon	CBS
Thurs., Nov. 25	at Detroit Lions	11:30 a.m.	CBS
Sun., Dec. 5	GREEN BAY PACKERS	Noon	CBS
Sun., Dec. 12	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Noon	CBS
Sat., Dec. 18	DENVER BRONCOS	11:30 a.m.	NBC
Sun., Dec. 26	DETROIT LIONS	Noon	CBS
Sun., Jan. 2, 1994	at Los Angeles Rams	3:00 p.m.	CBS

*Chicago time

HOME TEAM IN CAPS

Gift Ideas

[illegible]



CENTRAL ISSUES

By John Delcos

Sanders, Lions look to rebound



Detroit Lions

1992 OVERVIEW: 5-11. The Lions, a team shaken by personal tragedy, went from the 1991 NFC Championship to the division cellar. The collapse began with the paralyzing injury to Mike Utley and continued with the tragic death of Eric Andolsek.

COACHING PROFILE: Wayne Fontes took considerable heat — and rightfully so — for his mishandling of the quarterback situation. Fontes juggled Rodney Peete, Erik Kramer and Andre Ware, and appeared to settle on Ware at the end of the season.

NEW FACES: LB Pat Swilling, G Bill Fralic, G Dave Richards, G David Lutz.

GOODBYE: CB Melvin Jenkins, WR Mike Farr, CB Sheldon White.

TRAINING CAMP SPOTLIGHT: Fontes has to avoid the quarterback shuffle which stunted the offense's development. The key for the Lions to return to the playoffs is how well their rebuilt offensive line will mesh. With at least two new starters, it takes time to develop the consistency and timing the line requires.

1993 PROJECTION: If the line comes together, RB Barry Sanders should have another spectacular season and the Lions should return to contender status. However, that could be nullified if Fontes doesn't maintain stability at quarterback.



Green Bay Packers

1992 OVERVIEW: 9-7. Under rookie head coach Mike Holmgren, the Packers climbed into contention. Holmgren chose

Brett Favre over Don Majkowski at quarterback and never regretted the decision.

COACHING PROFILE: Holmgren has instilled much of the 49er offensive theories into Favre, who has responded under his coach's patience and guidance. This could be the beginning of a beautiful relationship.

NEW FACES: DE Reggie White, WR Mark Clayton, RB John Stephens, QB Ken O'Brien, G Harry Galbreath, DE Bill Maas, T Tunch Ilkin.

GOODBYE: S Chuck Cecil, RB Vince Workman, T Tootie Robbins, CB Vinnie Clark, QB Majkowski.

TRAINING CAMP SPOTLIGHT: Everybody — the Packers drew 30,000 for a scrimmage already — is talking about White, and rightfully so. However, he alone can't carry the Packers into the playoffs, and looking at the impressive list of other free agents that were signed, Holmgren and GM Ron Wolf recognize that. Right now, all eyes are on White, which might be a good thing because it will enable the others to gradually work their way into the program without much attention.

1993 PROJECTION: If Favre continues his development — don't forget, it's not unusual for a quarterback to take a step back — and the free agents meet expectations, the Packers could get into the playoffs. Anything less will be considered a bad year.



Minnesota Vikings

1992 OVERVIEW: 11-5. Lost 24-7 in wildcard round to Washington. Under first-year coach Dennis Green, the Vikings shed their 40-man, 40-cabs mentality and

played like a cohesive unit that actually liked each other all year. The breakdown came late in the season with the offense when Green shuffled his quarterbacks.

COACHING PROFILE: Green is a taskmaster. He is regarded as a players' coach, and he was successful in instilling team unity. That wasn't always the case with other superior talented Viking teams which sputtered early in the playoffs.

NEW FACES: QB Jim McMahon, LB Fred Strickland, CB Izel Jenkins.

GOODBYE: C Kirk Lowdermilk, DE Al Noga, G Brian Habib, CB Najee Mustafaa.

TRAINING CAMP SPOTLIGHT: McMahon's health and ability to pick up the system. Green really wanted McMahon, although there was talk at one time the Vikings would pursue Joe Montana.

1993 PROJECTION: A return to the playoffs is possible, especially if McMahon stays healthy. However, losing Lowdermilk and Habib won't help in that regard.



Tampa Bay Buccaneers

1992 OVERVIEW: 5-11. New coach Sam Wyche brought in a potentially-potent offensive system and a new attitude. The only problem, is that he had the same old players.

COACHING PROFILE: Wyche unsuccessfully pursued Pittsburgh QB Neil O'Donnell, and others, including Boomer Esiason and Joe Montana. Wyche will try to make a go of it with Steve DeBerg.

NEW FACES: LB Hardy Nickerson, T Anthony Munoz, CB Martin Mayhew, RB Vince Workman.

GOODBYE: QB Vinny Testaverde, WR Mark Carrier.

TRAINING CAMP SPOTLIGHT: Does DeBerg have enough left in the tank to drive things until Craig Erickson is ready?

1993 PROJECTION: The Bucs finally realized it wasn't ever going to work and they cut their ties with Testaverde.

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Camp questions

Congratulations on your Platteville training camp preview issue. It was the best ever. A couple of questions:

1) When I was in Platteville last year I noticed the Bears had a coach just for the kickers. Do they have one this year?

2) In your review of the DBs you didn't mention Jeremy Lincoln. Was that an oversight or simply an acknowledgment that his chances of making the team are as slim as Kenny Wilhite's, Matt Goodwin's and Tracy Saul's?

3) What are Bob Slowik's credentials? In a previous issue the only thing I can remember you saying about him was that he went to the same high school as Dave Wannstedt and he was a defensive assistant at Dallas.

Jack Foster
Los Angeles

Kevin Olsen, a kicking consultant who works several NFL camps during the summer, is again working with the kickers and punters in Platteville. Olsen was a placekicker for Maryland and played briefly in the NFL with the 49ers and Bills.

Jeremy Lincoln is expected to make the team in a back-up role. He'll battle Lemuel Stinson and Keshon Johnson for the fourth cornerback spot behind Donnell Woolford, Anthony Blaylock and Richard Fain.

Bob Slowik, who did in fact attend high school with Wannstedt, was primarily responsible for the nickel defense last season at Dallas. Under Slowik, the Cowboys allowed opponents a 27.2 percent third down conversion rate, best in the NFL. Prior to joining Dallas, Slowik coached outside linebackers at East Carolina from 1984-91.

California fans unite

I have been a subscriber to *Bear Report* for five years and a lifelong Bears fan. I always look forward to receiving my issues and enjoy them very much. I have

lived in California since 1981 and have come across many Bears fans and places during that time.

I'd like to respond to subscriber Tim Hankins' letter from Irvine regarding Bear fans in the area. There's a great organization called WACCO (Western Association of Crazy Chicagoans and Others) that has many events tied to Chicago sports teams. Tim should write to them at P.O. Box 1140, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 or call Digger at 714-891-0895 for more information.

I'll also be at both California games this fall, so maybe I'll see Tim at the games. Good luck to the Chicago Bears and *Bear Report*.

Ed Garcia
Bakersfield, Calif.

Time to earn respect

In response to Fred Mitchell's article about Richard Dent being an unhappy camper, the Bears aren't paying him \$1.2 million to be a happy camper. The way he played the last couple of seasons one might think he's camping out on the line of scrimmage. He sure isn't putting pressure on quarterbacks with any consistency.

If Dent wants the respect of a Reggie White then he's got to shut up and earn it. We all remember the lethargic play of the Bears last season. Dent was one of those players.

I get a kick out of these macho players talking trash who then get their feelings hurt when a coach unloads on them when they don't perform. Maybe Dent and his teammates publicly and privately humiliated coach Ditka with their awful execution of football fundamentals last year.

The great players—Butkus, Payton, Singletary, Fencik, Hampton and McMichael—play 60 minutes of extremely intense football, win or lose. They give everything they have to the team effort. When was the last time Richard Dent did that?

Steve Phillips
Chesapeake, Virginia

A tribute to Pinky

I was truly saddened to read of Dennis Gentry's retirement. This sort of thing has to happen to all players eventually, but that doesn't make it any easier.

Dennis did everything on offense. He was the go-to guy in the clutch. He was a consistently solid performer. You could always count on Dennis to pick up those needed yards or throw an effective down-field block. As a matter of fact, he still has the quickest acceleration of any back I've seen.

It was always fun to see him shoot through a bevy of tacklers or catch that impossible pass.

I'm also sad because I was hoping to realize a 10-year-old dream this summer. I just moved to Wisconsin and had made plans to meet him in Platteville this year. It is indeed a shame that I won't be able to shake the hand of probably the greatest all-around player who ever wore the blue and orange.

Dennis, you will be remembered with fondness and respect for the way you played the game. You will be missed by all.

Charles Cusumano
Stevens Point, Wis.

Fair-weather fans need not apply

In response to the May 1993 Issue of *Bear Report*, we were disgusted to find so-called Bears fans slamming the players and draft picks. What we call you is a fair weather fan, which is someone who only backs their team in good times.

If the Bears would have won the Super Bowl last year, would you still have the same thoughts? I don't think so! People should look more toward the good points

instead of the bad. A true fan supports the team through both good and bad.

We think the draft picks will help out the team a lot. We're looking forward to seeing the Bears in the Super Bowl this year. Good luck!

Melissa Feuerhelm
Cody Sanders
Lansing, Iowa

I've been a Bears fan for all 25 years of my life. I love them now, always have and always will. I just can't stand how about one of every 10 or 15 Bears fans are fair weather fans. They're extremely negative.

If you won't support the pride of Chicago, I'm sure you can get tickets to the Metrodome. Or why don't you try green and yellow on for size? I think you have to give our young guys, such as Dante Jones and Stan Thomas, a chance now that Mike Ditka is gone.

Remember, our offense was in the top 10 last year, and now we have added a burner in Curtis Conway. This should help all of our receivers, especially Anthony Morgan, and open our ground game for Neal Anderson.

We're definitely not where we want to be, but we're making big strides. So let's stand behind our new coach and our beloved Bears no matter what!

Nat Mara
Phoenix

Who should start at middle linebacker? What type of impact will Curtis Conway have? What will the Bears record be this season? Drop us a line at Viewpoint and let us know what you think!

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